

NEW YORK HERALD.

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PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE: N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

TERMS: Cash in advance.
THE DAILY HERALD: 5 cents per copy—\$1 per annum.
ADVERTISEMENTS: 5 cents per line.

Volume XX, No. 13

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—CINDERELLA—A
MAGICAL ACT.BOVEY THEATRE, Bovey—CLOCK OF GOLD—Col-
lorio—Jury—Trotter.BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—LIVING TOO
FAST—LIFE AND DEATH—MAGIC—OUR NEW YOUNG MAN.WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—NIGHT AND MOR-
NING—NEW FOOTMAN.METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—EQUESTRIAN
PERFORMANCE—MONTE CRISTO.AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon—LEND ME FIVE SHIL-
LINGS—Hole in the Wall. Evening—WALLACE.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Mechanic's Hall, 472 Broadway.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 539 Broadway—Buck-
ley's Ethiopian Opera Troupe.

New York, Monday, January 15, 1855.

Mails for Europe.

THE NEW YORK HERALD—EDITOR FOR EUROPE.
The Cunard mail steamship *Adia*, Capt. Loys, will leave
Boston on Wednesday, at noon, for Liverpool.
The European mails will close in this city at a quarter
to two o'clock to-morrow afternoon.The Herald (printed in English and French) will be
published at ten o'clock to-morrow morning. Single
copies, in wrappers, sixpence.Subscriptions and advertisements for any edition of
the NEW YORK HERALD will be received at the following
places in Europe:LONDON: John Hunter, No. 2 Pall Mall street.
LONDON: Edwards, Stanford & Co., No. 17 Cornhill.
LONDON: Wm. Thomas & Co., No. 19 Catherine street.
PARIS: Livingstone, Wells & Co., 8 Place de la Bourse.The contents of the European edition of the Herald
will embrace the news received by mail and telegraph at
the office during the previous week, and to the hour of
publication.

The News.

By telegraph from Washington we learn that the
special committee of the Senate on the Pacific Rail-
road, met on Saturday to consider the plans proposed
by Senators Rusk and Douglas. It is understood
that the project of the latter gentleman was finally de-
clined on, and that a report will be made to the
Senate recommending its adoption. Three routes
are provided for, viz.: a southern route, from the
western border of Texas to the Pacific; a central
one from the western border of Missouri or Iowa to
San Francisco; and a northern one from the western
border of Wisconsin or Minnesota to the navigable
waters of the Pacific in Oregon or Washington Ter-
ritory. The bill sets apart alternate sections of
land for ten miles on each side of the route, and
doubles the minimum price of the reserved sections,
and authorizes a mail contract for fifteen years from
the completion of the road, at a rate not exceeding
three hundred dollars per mile. The bill also
authorizes the Secretary of War and Navy to make
contracts for the transportation of government sup-
plies for the same period, and makes other im-
portant regulations. For full details see telegraph.We give in another part of to-day's paper an in-
teresting account of the Mesquite tree and its
gum, from the pen of Captain R. B. Marcy. This
tree is a variety of the acacia, and constitutes vast
tracts of woodland between the twenty-sixth and
thirty-sixth parallels of north latitude, and is des-
tined to become highly valuable to settlers in the
regions where it abounds. The timber is very du-
rable as a building material, is excellent for fire-
wood, and the tree emits a gum, when incised are
made in its bark, very similar, and not in the least
inferior in its properties, to the best gum arabic.We give elsewhere an interesting account of the
loss of the whaler *City*, as related by Captain
Gifford, who has arrived at New Bedford. The dis-
aster occurred on the 6th of September, in Sagadahoc
Bay, ten miles north of Cape Cod. The Captain,
and crew were rescued at the Russian village of
Petrowsky, in Siberia, with every mark of kind-
ness, and supplied with food, shelter and clothing,
until they were enabled to leave for home in the
ship *Sven Queen*, of Fairhaven.A very large meeting of the most influential mem-
bers of the Bar was held on Saturday, in the court-
room of the Common Pleas, to do honor to the
memory of those gentlemen of the profession who
perished in the wreck of the steamship *Arctic*.
Most eloquent speeches were made by Messrs B. F.
Baile, D. D. Lord, E. J. Barr, Charles A. Peabody,
Charles O'Connor, James T. Brady, full reports
of which will be found in another part of to-day's
paper.A very important decision was rendered in the
Supreme Court on Saturday, by Judge Roosevelt,
on a contract for the sale of real estate, where the
party purchasing did not conform to the terms of
the agreement, as regards time. The Judge re-
marked that a person selling real estate has the
same right to make punctuality in time as he has
sufficiency in amount, a condition precedent in
carrying out contracts. In accordance with this
view, he directed the contract to be cancelled.Resolutions were offered at the Southern Con-
vention, at New Orleans, on the 12th inst., de-
claring the acquisition of Cuba necessary to the protection
of the commerce of the South, and urging upon
Congress immediate action on the subject. A
reciprocal treaty between Spain and Mexico, for
the repeal of laws suppressing the slave trade, was
also recommended. Both resolutions were referred.The steamship *Northern Light*, with dates from
San Francisco to Dec. 23, arrived at New Orleans
on the 13th inst. She brings \$600,000 in specie for
New York. We learn that about one half of the
own of Vallecito was destroyed by fire on the 22d
alt. Flour was selling at \$14 per barrel, lard 14c,
bacon 13c, and hams 16c per lb.We published yesterday a brief telegraphic de-
spatch from New Orleans stating that the steamship
Prometheus had arrived at that port, with
California dates to December 24th. The despatch
states that the markets in California were very
dull. The crops are said to be abundant. No rains
had fallen to benefit the mining interest.Our despatch from New Orleans, of the 12th
instant, states that the cotton market was unchanged,
and that the sales for that day amounted to
5,000 bales, and for the week, 25,000.MEAT AND DRINK FOR THE POOR.—We hope
that the starving poor of this city will wait
patiently until those measures now in progress
for their relief shall be completed. We hear of
several splendid balls and parties, full dress
and calico, under way; and the dancers are
making every preparation to give these balls
such a character as will materially increase the
quantity of soup to be dispensed to the poor.
They are getting up silk and velvet, as well as
calico parties, and we may expect to see all the
richest styles of dress—all the newest patterns
of jewelry—all the most delicate European
laces—all the most expensive exotics for bou-
quets—all the luxuries of the season for the
suppers, including any amount of champagne—
and all the new dances, polkas, mazurkas, and
the German cotillon.After the dresses have been admired—the
jewelry inspected—the perfume of the flowers
inhaled—the laces criticised—the polkas polk-
ed, the mazurkas finished, the German waltz
and the suppers of cold duck and cham-
pagne duly devoured—the poor people will re-
ceive the surplus in soup.Therefore, we say, let the starving poor wait
patiently, for the fashionable people have taken
the matter in hand, and they are to be danced
out of their misery.Henry A. Wise on the Stump.—The Cabinet
Organs and the Know Nothings.—Wise and
Seward.We published yesterday an outline of one of
the late popular speeches of Henry A. Wise,
who is now out in Virginia on a stump tour,
as the democratic candidate for Governor. This
is rather a novel feature in our Northern re-
ports of Southern politics, and affords a very
favorable view of the peculiarly Southern in-
stitution of the stump. Brief, too, as is our
report of the speech in question, it establishes
the facts that Mr. Wise is an experienced and
sagacious politician, and an able, ready and
eloquent speaker.It is evident that Mr. Wise anticipates a de-
feat. He betrays this conviction in the drift of
his argument. He exhibits none of that saucy
mockery of his opponents which has heretofore
characterized the champions of the Virginia
democracy—none of that exulting confidence
concerning the rubbish and clap trap of Bal-
timore resolutions, democratic principles, and
democratic invincibility, which has hitherto
ruled the State. He has nothing to say for
Pierce or his confederate spokesmen—he appears
to have virtually abandoned them to their fate,
and to have adopted at last the sober policy of
resting his case upon the great local interests
of Virginia. His last speech is rather that of
an independent, progressive statesman, prac-
tical and free spoken, than the harangue of a
tool of the Cabinet. It looks as if he had cast
off the shackles of the Richmond Cabinet Junta
in disgust, and had taken the field as an inde-
pendent candidate, upon the common sense
platform of practical and tangible utilities, in-
stead of the stale abstractions of '98 and '99,
and such trash. Mr. Wise, also, appears to be
desirous now rather to conciliate than to exas-
perate the Know Nothings; and but for the
dead carcass of the administration, which he is
in a measure compelled to follow, it would be
a difficult task to defeat him upon the strong
progressive Virginia policy which he has for
himself adopted.It is unfortunate for Mr. Wise that he is iden-
tified with the cause of a sunken dynasty—un-
fortunate that while he is conducting his case
before the people of Virginia upon practical
questions of the first consequence to the State,
that he should have to carry about with him the
bad odor of Pierce and his administration—un-
fortunate that the Cabinet organ at Washington,
and its faithful lackey, the Richmond *Enquirer*,
should persevere in their unavailing efforts to
get up the hue and cry of abolitionism against
the Know Nothings in Virginia, just as the old
fisherman's wife insisted upon sweeping the
ocean waves out of her cabin with the tide still
rising against her. But this is the last desper-
ate trick of the Cabinet spoilsmen to create a
division against the new American party,
which seems to be carrying everything before
it in the "Old Dominion" and it is, therefore,
quite natural that the Pierce fugleman should
stick to it with the tenacity of despair.From the specimen which we have given our
readers of the stump speeches of Mr. Wise, it
appears that he has softened down his antipa-
thies to the Know Nothings, from fierce hostility
to factious hy-play. He knows all about
their signs, grips, pass words, triangular pieces
of paper, and so forth; but he is not one of
them. He is unfortunately against them, and
if they intend to sink him, he is quite willing
to sink with W. H. Seward. The Cabinet organs
and agents at Washington, Richmond, New
York and Albany, on the other hand, preferring
that Wise and Seward should swim together, are
laboring with the zeal of martyrs in the common
cause. And so, while the Washington *Union*,
Richmond *Enquirer*, and the rump of the
Richmond democratic sweat house, are urging
upon the Virginians the necessity of extirpat-
ing the Know Nothings as a nest of Seward's
cousins—the instruments directing the
movements of Tammany Hall are, we have
good reasons to believe, actively co-operating
with the secret agents of Seward in behalf of his
re-election. Manifestly the re-election of Seward
will operate to the advantage of Wise, in the
same proportion that the defeat of Seward
will work in Virginia to the advantage of the
Know Nothings. It is evident, then, that the
administration desire the re-election of Seward
as a stepping stone to the salvation of Virginia.The mock heroics of the Cabinet organs con-
cerning the alleged anti-slavery instincts and
tendencies of the Northern Know Nothings are
very amusing. These organs cannot under-
stand how it is that good democratic adminis-
tration Nebraska men should have been crucified
in the late Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illi-
nois, Michigan, Iowa and other elections,
or how the Know Nothings should have
combined with the free soilers
in the election of anti-Nebraska free soil men
in such cases, unless the Know Nothings are
thoroughly seasoned with the leaven of abo-
litionism. But this question is more simply
explained upon its true definition. The Know
Nothings set out during the last summer to
take the field for the Presidency. Their first
duty was to clear the track of existing obstruc-
tions. The administration and its spoilsmen
occupied it, and Seward and his Northern anti-
slavery league were preparing to enter upon it.
The first duty, then, was to remove the
goods and chattels of the administration and
their spoilsmen from the course; and the Know
Nothings, to this end, used the implements at
hand. So, then, if good Nebraska men were
thrown out with the other materials of the Cab-
inet coalition, it was because they were part
and parcel of the imbecile and corrupt estab-
lishment at Washington, which it was neces-
sary to set aside.Having pretty thoroughly cleared off the
administration and its materials from the
Northern portion of the great national race-
course, the next thing required was the re-
moval of the Seward anti-slavery coalition.
The Know Nothings accordingly commenced
this work in New York in our late
State elections, and followed it up with the
most astounding results in that
headquarters of abolitionism, the old re-
volutionary commonwealth of Massachusetts.
But the job remains unfinished in New York
while Seward sits in the Senate. Let him be
defeated, and the Know Nothings, holding un-
disputed possession of the North, will then
have nothing to do but to carry Virginia, in
order to wash out, like a spring freshet, the
whole Southern section of the Union.The dultest scholar in party politics will thus
perceive the vital importance to the adminis-
tration and to Henry A. Wise of the re-election
of Wm. H. Seward. In this light it is not neces-
sary to get a permit to the secret sittings of
the Tammany Coal Hole or the Kitchen
Cabinet to understand their line of action at
Albany. It is unquestionably in behalf of
Seward's re-election. How amusing, then, toevery honest reader, and how extremely con-
temptible must appear the affected holy
horror of the Cabinet organs at their discov-
eries of the affiliations between certain well
known anti-slavery men of the North and the
Know Nothings! For example, they have dis-
covered that General Wilson, late a prominent
free soiler, will probably be elected to the United
States Senate, from Massachusetts, by the
Know Nothings! What does this signify? Mr.
Wise was formerly the great Southern Ajax of
the whigs in Congress against the federal
policy of Jackson and Van Buren; but who
doubts his democracy now, except Billy
Smith? And so, if the Know Nothings elect
General Wilson to the Senate, we are confident
that he will prove a conservative upon the
slavery question, in accordance with their
sound national principles.We have shown that the fortunes of the adminis-
tration, of Wise, and of Seward are blended
together, though each party is fighting a sepa-
rate battle. We have shown the despicable
system of warfare of the Cabinet organs. The
game of Seward is equally mean. Under pre-
tence of a legal argument before one of our
courts in a patent case, we find him absent-
ing himself from his official duties at
Washington, (though still pocketing his eight
dollars a day,) and making and publishing a
sneaking electioneering speech to help his case
at Albany. A patent case of Senatorial dig-
nity! How striking the contrast of the
manly and open electioneering policy of
Henry A. Wise, before his electors, face to
face, freely and eloquently discussing the
great practical interests of his State, ever
ready to confront his adversaries in open day!
Pity that the success of Wise should depend,
in any degree, upon the success of Seward;
pity that, in spite of himself, he should be tied
to the dead carcass of the administration. Pity
that the great popular work of the new political
revolution should involve the sacrifice of
such a man as Wise. But so it is, and we
must bow to the will of the people.A New Feature in the Commercial Crisis—
War in Wall Street.A correspondence of a somewhat unusual
character appeared in our columns yesterday
morning. It was between H. D. Bacon, of the
house of Page & Bacon, bankers, of St. Louis,
and a number of residents and merchants of that
city, who happened to be here on Saturday;
and conveyed to the former the sympathies of
the latter, on the occasion of the failure of the
house of which he was a member. In his reply
Mr. Bacon observed that he would hereafter
"publish the facts, which would show that had
good faith characterized the conduct of our
(Page & Bacon's) correspondents," the suspen-
sion would not have occurred. Such a charge
made at such a moment by a man of Mr. Bacon's
standing in reference to firms equally emi-
nent, is quite worthy of attention by the
public at large. On whatever grounds it may
rest—these must for the present remain un-
known—it shows that a state of war existed be-
tween the financial houses of New York and the
leading financial house of the West. Mr. Bacon
charges bad faith on his "correspondents." This
they may deny, but they can hardly deny
that whether from policy, or prudence or some
less honorable motive, they were directly in-
strumental in breaking down his house. It is of
course true that a banker trusts whom he
pleases, and the "correspondents" are the sole
judges of what is right for them to do; but
when a wealthy firm is ruined by an act of
theirs, much suffering ensues, and the public
at large have some right to inquire why
and how it was done. Page & Bacon were en-
gaged in a most lucrative branch of the bank-
ing business, and some one or other among
"the correspondents" must fill the vacancy
occasioned by their failure. Moreover, the
moment the suspension took place, unusually full
accounts of the disaster appeared in three of
the morning journals whose money column is
understood to be at the service of a certain
financial circle in Wall street; notably for the
purpose of announcing to the farmers and
traders of the West that Page & Bacon were no
longer competent to transact their business,
and that they had better transfer it to the Wall
street firms which proposed to succeed them.
These circumstances, taken in connection with
Mr. Bacon's letter, will be likely to produce a
general impression that the house of Page &
Bacon was wilfully broken down by rival
houses in Wall street, from pure jealousy and
avarice. Nor will that impression be confined
to the case of that firm alone. Other failures
have occurred in the West, where blame has
been laid at the door of the same Wall street
circle; and the inference from the whole will be
that a struggle is pending between the Western
bankers and those of New York; that the latter
are endeavoring to ruin and destroy the former,
and that they have already succeeded in one or
two prominent instances.A similar contest between two other classes
of financial men is within the memory of most
of us. About the year 1829, the strife between
the United States Bank and the States banks
began, and from 1830 to 1836, those institutions,
on one side as well as the other, were conducted
more with a view to break each other down
than to fulfil the designs of their creators. The
sole object of the States banks seemed to be to
injure "the monster," by trying to break his
branches, or discredit it in Congress; while on
the other hand, the vast facilities possessed by
the United States Bank enabled it to wage a
terrible rivalry with its minor competitors, and
Nicholas Biddle took care to neglect none of
them. Thus fighting for public favor, both were
induced, in the pursuance of their antagonistic
policy, to court support by extending unusual
accommodation to their customers; until, at
length, both had expanded so far that contrac-
tion was impossible, and one common ruin en-
veloped both. The States banks had killed the
United States Bank to be sure; but in doing so
they had committed suicide themselves.The lesson so clearly proved a warning to the
Wall street financiers who may feel inclined
to build themselves up on the ruins of the
Western houses. It is quite possi-
ble for a combination here, in the present
hard times, to injure the credit of any
Western house, or even to ruin those
which have dealt to any large extent in
railroad paper; but it must be remembered that
the blow will tell both ways. It may strike
down the Western man, but it is sure to recoil
on Wall street. In flush times, when mistakes
hardly seem of consequence, and all is pros-
perity, a sharp competition for business can
only benefit a country, and can hardly entail
any serious disasters; but when the tide turns,
spiteful jealousy and commercial strife add ten-
fold to the danger of the position. To-day the
correspondents of Messrs. Page & Bacon maysucceed in effecting the ruin of their rival; to-
morrow their turn may come, and how shall
they ask for mercy? At the hour we write, all
is doubt, uncertainty, gloom in the future. A
mail from Europe, a disaster at home, or even
the natural consequences of the events of the
last ten years may at any moment revolutionize
Wall street, and shatter the soundest credit.
No man can say the storm shall not strike him
down. How unspeakably short sighted under
such circumstances, for the men who should be
placing shoulder to shoulder, and aiding each
other as far as their own safety will allow, to
seize the opportunity of crushing their rivals,
and quarrelling together! How bitterly the
managers of the State and the United States
banks must have thought of their suicidal strife,
when both were prostrate, and all was ruin
around!ANOTHER LETTER FROM FLAGG—FINANCING
AND ABOLITIONISM.—We give in to-day's
HERALD another extraordinary letter from
Comptroller Flagg to the Board of Aldermen.
The document is so interesting that we purpose
to examine one or two of its strong points.The present statement of the Comptroller
was called out by a special resolution of the
Board of Aldermen, directing him to report the
amount of money paid for advertising during
the past year, and particularly the sums paid
for extra advertising to his abolition organ, the
Evening Post. It seems that the special ad-
vertising given to that journal, which has ex-
clusive patronage to that journal, which has a
circulation of about fifteen hundred copies.
The rate paid was fifty cents per line for four-
teen publications, and fifteen hundred extra
copies were furnished for distribution, whether
gratuitously or not we are not informed. This
extra issue increased the circulation to three
thousand copies, equal to one-sixteenth of the
daily issue of the HERALD. The advertising
of these notices, says the Comptroller, "was
given to the *Evening Post*, as the proprietors
of that paper offered to perform the work at a
less price per line than [those of] any other
paper." Now this is not meeting the question
fairly. Taking the difference in the cir-
culation of the two journals, let us see what
the HERALD would have received at Comptroller Flagg's economical rate.
Only about forty-four thousand dollars! And
yet Mr. Flagg tells the Board of Aldermen
that the *Evening Post* received the work be-
cause its proprietors offered to do it cheaper
than anybody else. According to its cir-
culation, the *Evening Post* received three times as
much as should have been paid for this work;
and the statement that it was the best offer is a
misrepresentation of fact. There was no
competition, because no one was informed that
there was anything to compete for. The
Evening Post received about four thousand
dollars worth of advertising, which, by extra
charges for printing extra copies, etc., might
be easily swelled to seven or eight thousand dol-
lars. Comptroller Flagg's alleged reason for
giving this patronage to the *Post* will not hold
water.In the course of a further survey of the
Comptroller's letter, we find that the journals
which received one thousand dollars each for
advertising the city notices are those of the
most limited circulation. Thus, a journal cir-
culating two thousand copies is paid one thou-
sand dollars for doing work which a journal
circulating fifty thousand copies was willing to
do for six thousand dollars. This is certainly
a most novel style of economy,
and it seems to have been the settled
policy of Flagg to conceal the Corporation
notices in journals of the smallest circulation. It
will be seen at once that his statement that he
advertised in those journals which offered to
perform the work for the lowest price, is an
entire misrepresentation.A further instance of the Comptroller's policy
in the remarkable letter now under consid-
eration, is contained in the fact that he prefers
as the organs of the city government the abo-
lition journals—those newspapers which have
always advocated doctrines subversive of the
progress and the prosperity of this country.These facts prove the utter worthlessness of
the Comptroller's pretensions to economy. He
has adopted it as a principle that the Corpora-
tion desires to hide its proceedings and its no-
tices from the public eye; and he has distrib-
uted the advertising in the shape of spoils to
weak and tottering journals that could not live
without it. In this manner the sum of ten
thousand dollars has been expended by the
City Council to back up a few obscure news-
papers, in order that Comptroller Flagg might
be duly glorified.THE FRENCH MISSION AGAIN VACANT.—We
may expect to hear in a day or two that the
French mission has been vacated by the illness
or death of Mr. Mason, and that hosts of old
candidates and new are urging their claims to
the place on the President. There will be for
instance Mr. Dix, to whom it was promised by
the President, and who though a free soiler of
1848 is no worse in this respect than John Coch-
rane, several other nominees of the administra-
tion, or the President himself. Mr. Cobb has a
chance; at one time it was thought he was
sure of the appointment, and his claims are as
good still. After Mr. Wise of Virginia has
been defeated by the Know Nothings, he will
also re-enter the lists; and eloquent and able
as he has proved himself by his last speech,
will stand a fair chance. John Van Buren is
out of the question; Mr. Cutting has had quite
enough of politics for the present; and the other
old candidates will probably refrain from
courting a second disappointment. New ones
in abundance will spring up in their stead.It has been intimated to us as a thing by no
means unlikely, that the President, seeing his
administration fall so low that even Mr. Wise
dared not allude to him in his speech, will en-
deavor to repair his past errors by offering us
the French mission, and requesting us to take
charge of the very tangled web of our foreign
relations. We know not how this may be, but
to prevent misconception, we beg formally to
withdraw our name as an applicant for the of-
fice, and announce our determination to refuse
it should it be offered us. Under other cir-
cumstances, the great need that is felt for some
man of common sense to look after our Euro-
pean relations might have induced us to forego
our inclinations and consent to serve the coun-
try as foreign minister. But, at present, Mr.
Pierce has so thoroughly disorganized parties
at home, that we feel we can be of no service
in recording the progress of the Know Nothing
revolution, and guiding its counsels. The ad-
ministration had better select Mr. Dix, whose
claims and ability are good; or, should he de-
cline, or be unavailable from some other reason,
Mr. Wise, who would make an excellentforeign minister, and deserves some consolation
after the defeat which is about to befall him.
Either nomination would receive our support.AMERICAN TRADE WITH AFRICA.—THE LAW
MUSKETS.—We published in yesterday's HER-
ALD a very interesting sketch of the financial
and commercial condition of several of the
African States, and we understand that there
are still more interesting developments to
come from the same source. The author of the
sketch referred to—Mr. Thomas N. Carr—
was once Consul of the United States at
Tunis, and lately returned from a second visit
to that country, where he had been employed
to get off some of George Law's muskets. For
some reason or other—which may be more
fully explained when the case of Thomas N.
Carr against George Law comes before our
courts—the muskets did not go off on this oc-
casion. And these unfortunate weapons—not
withstanding all the sales and purchases al-
leged to have been made, and all the move-
ments of the mysterious vessels in various
parts of the world—are still snug and safe in
this neighborhood, ready at any moment to be
used for the capture of Cuba, the revolution
in Mexico, or the reconstruction of Poland.We learn that Mr. Carr intends to give a suc-
cinct history of the muskets at an early day,
and as there is a great deal of public interest
felt in the matter, we have no doubt that his
revelations will command a large share of at-
tention, and that the muskets will be made to
go off in some shape or other.NEW LINE OF MAIL STEAMERS.—We learn
that Commodore Vanderbilt has made a propo-
sition to the Post Office Department to carry
the mails to Southampton and Havre alter-
nately with the Collins line. His intention is
to build five steamers, to enable him to run a
semi-monthly line. Two of the five are now on
the stocks, and will be ready for service in a
few months. Commodore V.'s proposition is to
receive a proportionate rate of pay with the
lines now in existence for carrying the mails,
and in this way establish a weekly line of Amer-
ican steamers to Europe. We hope he will
succeed. Congress cannot do better than to
encourage all ocean mail steam lines. It is
the cheapest way of keeping up a navy. The
war in the Crimea has fully demonstrated this
fact. Without the Oriental, West Indian,
Cunard and other mail steamers, it would have
been impossible for the Allied Powers to have
despatched reinforcements in time to have been
of any use to Lord Raglan and Gen. Canrobert.
The Arabian, the last to leave Marseilles, car-
ried seventeen hundred French troops, besides
abundant munitions of war. With ten or
twenty steamers like the Baltic, Pacific, and
Atlantic, troops could be transported to any
part of our Eastern coast in a week; and with
steamers of equal speed on the Pacific, troops
could be sent from New York to San Francisco
in less than three weeks. Let Congress think
of these facts.FOREIGN MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS.—We have
heretofore published the official order of the
Governor of Massachusetts disbarring eight
militia companies composed of Irishmen. The
example of Governor Gardner should be imi-
tated in other States. If Irishmen, Germans,
or Frenchmen desire to serve in the militia,
there are plenty of skeleton regiments to be
filled up. They have no right to exclusive
charters, or to wear foreign national uniforms,
or to be known by foreign names. The militia
is a national institution, and should be every
where a consolidated American body.MORE TROUBLES AT ERIE.—It is somewhat
curious that the riots which have broken out
fresh at Erie, should be traced in so great a
measure to the German population. For one
American man, at least five German occur
among the rioters. So it is all over the Union.
Nine-tenths of the riots, law-breaking, violence
and crime are the work of foreigners—mainly
Irish and Germans. Can any one wonder that
the Know Nothings have succeeded?ERROR OF MR. WISE.—Mr. Wise says that
Know Nothingism first saw the light in the
Fourth ward of the city of New York. He is
under a mistake. The Sixth and the Four-
teenth wards are entitled to the honor. The
first, when rum, and rioting, and trafficking in
the Irish vote rendered election time a hideous
disgrace to the city; the Fourteenth, when
Archbishop Hughes went to Carroll Hall to
make a political speech to the Irish. These
were the true cradles of the Know Nothing re-
volution.

THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Important from Washington.
THE PACIFIC RAILROAD—PROJECT OF THE SENATE
COMMITTEE.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 1855.

The Senate special committee on the Pacific Rail-
road met yesterday to consider the two projects presented by
Senators Douglas and Rusk, and finally determined to
report to the Senate and urge the adoption of Senator
Douglas's bill, with slight amendments.The bill provides three routes, viz.: the southern
route, from the western border of Texas to the Pacific;
the central route, from the western border of Missouri
or Iowa to the Bay of San Francisco; the northern route,
from the western border of Wisconsin, or Minnesota, to
the navigable waters of the Pacific in Oregon or Wash-
ington Territory.The bill sets apart alternate sections of land for ten
miles on each side of each route, and doubles the mini-
mum price on the reserved sections. It also authorizes
a mail contract for fifteen years from the completion of
the road, at a rate not exceeding three hundred dollars
per mile, which is the price now paid on first class
railroads; and also authorizes contracts to be made by
the Secretary of War and Navy for the same period,
for the transportation of government supplies, at a rate
not exceeding in the aggregate the sums now paid for
the same service.No money to be paid from the Treasury of the United
States until the service shall have been performed; and
no lands to be deeded to the companies until one hun-
dred miles of road shall have been made, and then only
three-quarters of the land pertaining to said one hun-
dred miles, reserving the other fourth until the com-
pletion of the succeeding one hundred miles, and so on,
throughout.The Secretaries of War and Navy, and the Postmaster
General, are required to issue an advertisement for
sealed proposals separately on each route.No proposal to be accepted which does not guarantee
the completion of the road within ten years, and a deposit
of five hundred thousand dollars with the government, in
United States or other par stock, which sum may be
refunded in amounts of one thousand dollars as soon as
that sum shall have been actually expended in the
construction of the road.THE PACIFIC RAILROAD BILL.—THE REPROBITY BILL.
IN SENATE.—THE GENERAL AMERICAN EX-
POSITION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14, 1855.

The probabilities are in favor of the passage of the
Pacific Railroad bill by the House, on the 16th; but as
three of the select committee in the Senate have re-
spective independent plans of their own, it will prob-
ably go back from the Senate so altered that the
House may not concur.Advices from Nova Scotia represent the people of that
province as highly pleased with the effects of the re-
proach bill. Arrangements are being made for much
larger exports of coal from Pictou next season.
Recent advices from Central America promise the ex-
pedition an entrance into the confederacy with such
boundary lines as they may desire, and other privileges
upon such conditions as will be complied with by Col.
Kinney and his associates.Arrival of the Steamship Northern Light at
New Orleans with \$600,000 in Specie.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 15, 1855.

The steamship *Northern Light* arrived here to-day,
with dates from San Francisco to the 22d of December,
and with about \$600,000 in specie for New York.
Flour was selling at \$14 per barrel, lard at 14c per lb.,
bacon at 13c, and hams at 16c.About half of the town of Vallecito was destroyed by
fire on the 22d ult.The ships *Flying Eagle* and *Alabama* arrived at San
Francisco from New York on the 22d of December.

The Southern Convention.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 12, 1855.

At the convention being held here to-day, resolutions
were offered and referred declaring the acquisition of
Cuba necessary for the protection of the